

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data ~~store; store;~~ and

generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence bean;

determining a connector based on a connection factory type;

accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector,  
wherein the code in the helper class performs the accessing;

receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure; and

mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure, wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.~~further comprising:~~

~~generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence bean.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.~~wherein the code in the helper class performs the accessing.~~

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

calling an evaluator class and passing results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results.~~receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure; and~~

~~mapping the input and output records between the method and the procedure.~~

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data store, wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean;

means for generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence ~~bean;~~bean; and

means for determining a connector based on a connection factory type;

means for accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector, wherein the code in the helper class performs the means for accessing;

means for receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure;  
and

means for mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.~~wherein the code in the helper class performs the means for accessing.~~

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.~~further comprising:~~

~~means for receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure;~~  
and

~~means for mapping the input and output records between the method and the procedure.~~

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

means for calling an evaluator class and passing results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results.

11. (Currently amended) A ~~storage~~~~signal-bearing~~ medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data store, wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean;

generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence ~~bean;~~~~bean;~~ and

determining a connector based on a connection factory type;

accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector,

wherein the code in the helper class performs the accessing;~~accessing~~

receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure; and

mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~~~signal-bearing~~ medium of claim 11, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure; and~~

~~mapping the input and output records between the method and the procedure.~~

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~~~signal-bearing~~ medium of claim 11, further comprising:

calling an evaluator class and passing results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~~~signal-bearing~~ medium of claim 11, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.

16. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

- a processor; and
- a storage device encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:
  - receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence bean and a procedure in a backend data store, wherein a state of the container-managed persistence bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence bean,
  - generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence bean,
  - determining a connector based on a connection factory ~~type, type, and~~
  - accessing the procedure via a backend-specific protocol and the connector, wherein the code in the helper class performs the ~~accessing, accessing~~
  - receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure, and
  - mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence bean and the procedure.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the instructions further comprise:

- calling an evaluator class and passing results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results.

19. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database.

20. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.